

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-02 H-01

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 PC-01

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R 212104Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7361

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, VE

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE TO VENEZUELA

1. LAST WEEK I CONFERRED AT THEIR REQUEST WITH DAVID LILIENTHAL AND DAVID MORSE, CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN RESPECTIVELY OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCES CORPORATION (DRC) OF NEW YORK AND SACRAMENTO, WHOSE STOCK IS WHOLLY OWNED BY IBEC, PRESIDED OVER BY RODMAN ROCKEFELLER.

2. PURPOSE OF LILIENTHAL-MORSE VISIT TO CARACAS WAS TO CONFER WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ, PLANNING MINISTER GUMERSINDO RODRIGUEZ AND MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS GABALDON OVER THREE POSSIBLE PROJECTS IN WHICH DRC MIGHT BE OF ASSISTANCE IN THE AGRICULTURAL FIELD. THESE INCLUDE DAIRY PROJECTS IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF ZULIA, RICE AND OTHER GRAIN DEVELOPMENT PLUS IRRIGATION IN THE EASTERN ANDES AND A SUGAR PROJECT NOT FAR FROM BARQUISIMETO. THE TOTAL COST OF THESE DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES WOULD BE BETWEEN FOUR AND SIX MILLION DOLLARS OVER A PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS.

3. LUCKILY FOR BOTH THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT AND DRC, THE

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LATTER IS ASSOCIATED IN THIS DEVELOPMENT WITH GENERAL ALFONSO RAVARD,

FORMER HEAD OF THE CORPORACION VENEZOLANO DE GUAYANA. IN CONSEQUENCE, THEY ARE IN GOOD HANDS SO FAR AS EXPERTISE AND POLITICAL SAVOIR-FAIRE ARE CONCERNED.

4. THIS MORNING MR. HAROLD FREDERICKSON, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER OF DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCES CORPORATION BASED IN SACRAMENTO, ACCOMPANIED BY MR. FERREL H. ENSIGN, A SENIOR ASSOCIATE, CALLED TO SAY THAT THEY HAD YESTERDAY BRIEFLY SEEN MINISTER RODRIGUEZ AND HAD CALLED ON MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS GABALDON. THEY HAD ALSO SEEN DR. HELLY TINEO, WHO IS RODRIGUEZ' DEPUTY IN CORDIPLAN. IN GENERAL, ALTHOUGH NO CONTRACT HAD BEEN SIGNED, THEY HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT IF RIVALRIES BETWEEN GABALDON AND RODRIGUEZ COULD BE IRONED OUT, A CONTRACT WOULD PRESENTLY BE SIGNED BETWEEN DRC AND THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD RESULT IN THE OVERALL SUPERVISION BY DRC OF THE PROJECTS OUTLINED ABOVE.

5. I TOLD MESSRS. FREDERICKSON AND ENSIGN THAT SINCE I AM LEAVING CARACAS, THEIR BEST POINT OF CONTACT (UNTIL THE NEW AMBASSADOR ARRIVES) SHOULD BE MR. JOHN MILLS, ECONOMIC COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY.

MCCLINTOCK

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